



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 8874

**\*HB0740708874HDO\***

Offered by:

REP. DILLON, 92<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

REP. WALKER, 93<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7407

File No. 655

Cal. No. 525

**"AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP AND THE RIGHTS OF INMATES  
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) When assessing and  
4 subsequently providing mental health services to any inmate confined  
5 in a correctional facility of the Department of Correction who has been  
6 diagnosed with a mental illness by a psychiatrist licensed pursuant to  
7 chapter 370 of the general statutes, and such psychiatrist has informed  
8 the department that such inmate is currently diagnosed by such  
9 psychiatrist to be a danger to himself or herself or others, the  
10 department shall consider the diagnosis of such psychiatrist in order to  
11 appropriately assess such inmate and provide individualized,  
12 clinically appropriate and culturally competent mental health services  
13 to treat such inmate's condition.

14 (b) (1) The Department of Correction shall, within available  
15 appropriations, develop a program for custodial staff members to  
16 receive not less than four hours and not more than eight hours of  
17 training on mental health issues each year. Such training shall consist  
18 of classroom instruction and written materials provided by a qualified  
19 mental health professional in conjunction with a training academy  
20 accredited by the American Correctional Association, and shall  
21 include, at a minimum: (A) Prevention of suicide and self-injury; (B)  
22 recognition of signs of mental illness; (C) communication skills for  
23 interacting with inmates with mental illness; and (D) alternatives to  
24 disciplinary action and the use of force when dealing with inmates  
25 with mental illness. Such program shall be offered: (i) Commencing on  
26 July 1, 2009, to all custodial staff members at one or more correctional  
27 facilities designated by the Commissioner of Correction; (ii) on and  
28 after July 1, 2010, to all custodial staff members at one or more  
29 additional correctional facilities designated by the commissioner; and  
30 (iii) on and after July 1, 2011, to all custodial staff members at one or  
31 more additional correctional facilities designated by the commissioner.  
32 Such program shall terminate on July 1, 2012.

33 (2) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this  
34 subsection, all custodial staff members at each correctional facility of  
35 the Department of Correction in which female inmates are confined  
36 may, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and within available  
37 appropriations, receive not less than four hours and not more than  
38 eight hours of training on mental health issues, including gender  
39 specific and trauma related mental health issues faced by female  
40 inmates.

41 (c) Before the planned release of any inmate diagnosed with a  
42 mental illness as provided in subsection (a) of this section from a  
43 correctional facility, the Department of Correction shall collaborate  
44 with the Judicial Department, the Department of Social Services and  
45 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as deemed  
46 necessary and within available appropriations, to assist such inmate in  
47 obtaining housing, mental health treatment services, any public

48 benefits for which the inmate is eligible and employment counseling  
49 upon the inmate's release.

50 (d) On February first of each year, the Commissioner of Correction  
51 shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General  
52 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public  
53 health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in  
54 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.  
55 Such report shall set forth (1) the number of inmates who have been  
56 determined to require mental health services during the previous  
57 calendar year, and (2) a description of program services provided by  
58 the Department of Correction and, if applicable, its contracted health  
59 services provider."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
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